



Helping People Help Themselves

SPARE

November 19 – December 2, 2010

CHANGE

NEWS

\$1

LIGHTING UP CONTROVERSY:

Boston Housing Authority to Ban
Smoking in Public Housing

- page 3



DEVAL PATRICK:

Governor Speaks at
Rosie's Place

- page 4

PROJECT 50/50:

Begin with the End
in Mind

- page 5

GOLDFINGER:

One Morning At
The Mall

- page 10

Your vendor buys this paper for 25¢ and keeps all the proceeds. Please purchase from vendors with blue badges only.

Spare Change News

is published by the HOMELESS EMPOWERMENT PROJECT (HEP)

Spare Change News
1151 Massachusetts Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02138
Phone: 617-497-1595
Fax: 617-868-0767
Spare Change News Worcester
301 Pleasant St.
Worcester, MA 01609
Phone: 508-754-7793
E-mail:
editor@sparechangenews.net
director@sparechangenews.net
Website:
www.sparechangenews.net
www.greaterworcesterhomeless.org

HEP ADMINISTRATION

Executive Director

David J. Jefferson

Board President

James Shearer

Treasurer

Chris McKnett

Co-Clerks

Emma Erikson

Erik Paulson

Board Members

Cheryl Jordan

Samuel Weems

Joseph MacDonald

Margery Furman

Johnny Nguyen

Michelle Ronayne

Norman Watne

Kristen Caretta

Michael Morisy

Marcia Benway

Worcester Manager

Bob Flanagan

Editor in Chief

Adam Sennott

Poetry Editor

Marc D. Goldfinger

Graphic Designer

Brendan Bernard

Puzzle Editor

Samuel Weems

Editorial Assistant

Jen Catalano

Alison Clark

Chalkey Horenstein

Contributing Writers

Beatrice Bell

Laurie Bowen

Daniel DeFraia

Marc D. Goldfinger

Aaron James

Shay Kelley

Seth Kershner

James Shearer

Linda Larson

Norman Watne

Vendor Supervisors

Norman Watne

Gary Gilreath

Charles Stallings

RoseAnn Hollywood

Advertising Representative

Debbie Clarke

Contributing Artist

Kevin Botelho

Gary Gagne

Contributing Photographers

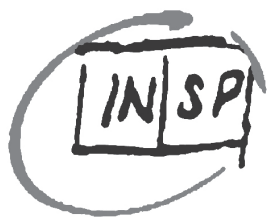
Brian Barthelmes

Daryl Peveto

Jen Merrill

Shay Kelley

Janine Callen



www.street-papers.org



North
American
Street
Newspaper
Association

Support Spare Change - The 2010 Fall Appeal

Vision & Mission

Spare Change News was founded in 1992 by a group of homeless people and a member of Boston Jobs with Peace. *Spare Change* is published by the nonprofit organization The Homeless Empowerment Project (HEP).

SPARE CHANGE'S GOAL:

"To present, by our own example, that homeless and economically disadvantaged people, with the proper resources, empowerment, opportunity, and encouragement are capable of creating change for ourselves in society."

HEP'S OBJECTIVES:

To empower the economically disadvantaged in Greater Boston through self-employment, skill development and self-expression. To create forums, including those of independent media in order to reshape public perception of poverty and homelessness.

Dear Friend,

As a loyal supporter of our mission and the empowerment work that we seek to realize, it gives me great pleasure to describe to you the recent successes that the Homeless Empowerment Project and Spare Change News have enjoyed.

Over the course of the past six months, we have accomplished several important milestones. For instance:

- We expanded the geographical territory of Spare Change — offering new possibilities for job creation, economic opportunity, and the development of self-esteem — to the city of Worcester. As of October 2010, we began publishing a Spare Change News, Worcester Edition, with four pages of content exclusive to that region of the Commonwealth. Our efforts have been featured in the mainstream press, including in the Worcester Telegram-Gazette, on New England Cable News, and on WBUR's Radio Boston (stories can be accessed at www.sparechangenews.net/press).

- We embarked on a collaboration with the Center for Future Civic Media at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, resulting in the Homeless Neighbors Project. The initiative links community members with Spare Change vendors, creating solidarity towards empowerment and the eradication of social

problems and stigma. With the vendor profile pages that we host on our website, the unique interaction between vendors and customers is replicated virtually, and a space in which supporters can make a real difference in the lives of individuals in their communities is opened. For more information, click www.sparechangenews.net/vendors.

- We have re-invigorated our Speakers' Bureau program, which coordinates public speaking engagements for currently and formerly homeless and low-income men and women. Through the Speakers' Bureau, persons who have experienced economic disadvantage can tell their stories and earn income — both of which generate the effect of empowerment. We are currently also unrolling a collaboration with AmeriCorps VISTA members to expand opportunities for speakers in the Bureau.

- We have redoubled our efforts towards recruitment and training of vendors, for example by printing materials to disseminate information about our vendor program, by engaging in conversations with key staff members at area service provision agencies, and by creating a vendor training video, which is currently underway.

- We invested in new products to raise our visibility in the community, namely Spare Change News

continued on next page

Lighting up Controversy:

Boston Housing Authority to Ban Smoking in Public Housing

Laurie Bowen
Spare Change News

In early November, Boston experienced temperatures as low as 32 degrees. Some homeless shuffled amid paused traffic at crowded intersections wearing heavy winter coats. Others huddled together in bus depots. Many crowded into shelters. Commuters heading to and from South Station also felt the chill as whipping, frigid winds turned umbrellas inside out. The days are only expected to grow colder as December begins. For some who have been lucky enough to escape the elements and find respite in Boston’s low-income housing, that cold may soon revisit with unpleasant familiarity, especially if they choose to continue smoking.

On November 1st, The Boston Housing Authority announced their Annual Plan for fiscal year 2011. The plan outlines a controversial non-smoking policy that would prevent residents of federally funded housing from using tobacco on housing grounds or within living areas at risk of eviction. The plan is heralded as a case for public interest, but some say that this is just one more instance of those in power granting limited rights to people with limited resources. In a world where it can be tagged criminal to sleep after hours in public spaces, loiter in doorways, or sit on curbs, the proposed ban raises uneasiness.

Still, Mayor Menino’s proposition maintains that the plan is in the inter-

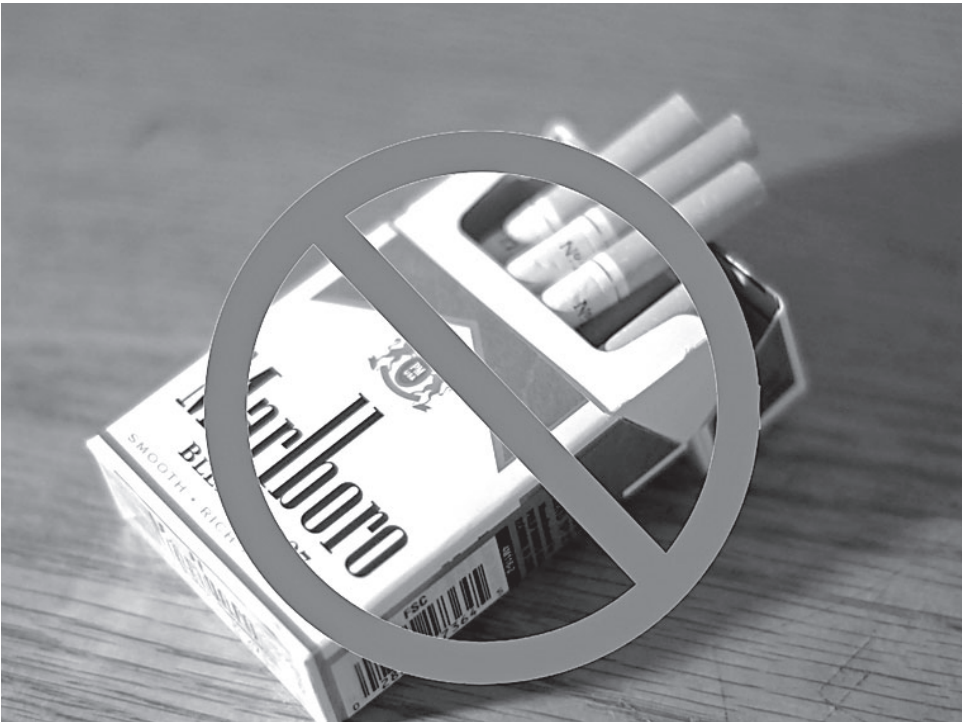


PHOTO / JANINE CALLEN

est of public safety. A causal relationship between smoking and cancer has been acknowledged by the U.S. government for over three decades. In a letter addressed to Boston residents, Menino outlines several major health problems associated with secondhand smoke, including Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, respiratory problems, ear infections, pneumonia, bronchitis, cardiovascular disease, and cancer. He also stresses that the presence of cigarettes, matches, and lighters is the number one cause of house fires in the United States. He urges smoking residents to “use this opportunity to quit” and claims that educational resources and smoking ces-

sation guidance will be available during the implementation period of the ban, should it be set in place. The BHA stresses that the change would not prevent smokers from living in the housing units; it would just require residents and visitors to head outside to designated areas if they want to smoke.

Stephen Helfer, a Cambridge local and long-time skeptic of the anti-smoking movement, is not surprised that this policy is en route to be initiated with little publicity. He worries that the BHA wants a “fait accompli with residents given very little chance to voice opposition.” In light of Menino’s health concerns, Helfer is not convinced that a neighbor’s secondhand smoke can be held responsible for aggravated illnesses. He notes that some of the common complaints against smoking are often triggered by other factors. For instance, he notes no proven link has been found to prove that smoking causes asthma, one of the most common claims made against tobacco use. He also notes that many other factors trigger asthmatic symptoms, including dust, mold, pollen, and pests.

Although tobacco is not illegal in the United States, statewide bans in bars, restaurants and businesses, as well as high taxes, are making it increasingly difficult for citizens to find a place to comfortably smoke. Comfort and convenience aside, Helfer believes that the new BHA policy would actually be a danger for some residents. He points out that “there are 47,000 BHA residents and about 6,000 (23%) of them smoke.

Many of these are single mothers.” Although it seems Mayor Menino ideally expects that most residents will want and be able to quit in time for the policy’s implementation, this is not likely to happen. “To force [single mothers] to go out at night in dangerous neighborhoods to have a cigarette is to put them at risk of assault. If they leave their children home, they will be charged with neglect by the DSS.” The dangers of assault and possible loss of child custody would only be exacerbated if a resident is evicted for non-compliance with the policy. The BHA even proposes to require all residents to report any neighbors who disobey the new regulation. Residents would be expected to sign a lease addendum in order to continue living on the premises that requires a written report for the landlord of any suspected tobacco use.

The Boston Public Health Commission, in collaboration with Mayor Menino and the Boston Housing Authority, is on a mission to stamp out a pastime that has been linked to copious illnesses and fatalities. They are also involved with smoking cessation classes, the Clean Air Works Workplace Smoking Restriction policy, and other anti-smoking campaigns. While it is an American’s right to choose whether or not to smoke, the BPHC also distinguishes “the right of those who wish to work and breathe in a smoke-free environment.” The BPHC is currently giving away free nicotine patches to residents who are over 18 years of age as a way of showing their commitment. They champion the free patches on their site, saying, “Not only does quitting smoking add years to your life, but it will also save you a significant amount of money. The average smoker spends \$3,000 a year on cigarettes. While quitting smoking is never easy, using nicotine replacement therapy such as the patch can significantly increase one’s chances of success. So call 1-800-QUIT-NOW.”

While the tough love approach that Mayor Menino, the Boston Housing Authority and the Boston Public Health Commission are using is seemingly to be carried out in increments, it has not been easy for everyone to stomach. Helfer believes that low-income smokers are “low-hanging fruit and part of a despised minority.”

In an August letter to the Boston Globe, Helfer appealed to personal

BOWEN continued on page 4

continued from previous page

t-shirts and 2011 calendars. We have offered this merchandise for sale at local events such as Harvard Square’s Oktoberfest and our own Vendor Appreciation Picnic in August, meanwhile giving away many shirts and calendars as donations to those who could not afford them.

Despite the myriad activities of the Homeless Empowerment Project of late—some of which have enabled us to diversify our funding stream—we still rely on your support. This fall, your contribution to HEP will help us to underwrite major operational expenses, our empowerment programs themselves, and future projects

such as the production of a “Best Of” issue of Spare Change. As a sign of our gratitude, for a contribution of \$50 or more, we will send you a complimentary 2011 Spare Change News calendar.

You can contribute to the 2010 Fall Appeal here, by clicking on the “ChipIn” link on the www.sparechange.news.net homepage. I thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,
David J. Jefferson, M.A.
Executive Director
The Homeless Empowerment Project
/ Spare Change News
1151 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge,
MA 02138

Deval Patrick Speaks at Rosie's Place

Beatrice Bell
Spare Change News

Nearly fifty low-income and homeless women listened and asked questions as Governor Deval Patrick highlighted his time as governor.

During the elections Governor Deval Patrick made an appearance at Rosie's Place, a women's shelter in Boston. During his visit he spoke to nearly fifty women and stressed issues surrounding Housing, CORI Reform and MassHealth.

During his hour-long visit he stressed his views on housing and his preference of permanent housing over the shelter system.

"We have money from the federal and state government combined to help change people from staying in the shelters to permanent Housing," said Governor Patrick.

When he started talking about CORI Reform one woman didn't know anything about it. She thought that CORI was a person. Deval stated to her and the rest of us ladies: "I signed a comprehensive CORI Reform bill which is tough on crime, helps reduce recidivism to jail, and gives ex-offenders an opportunity to get back on their feet towards leading productive lives," said Governor Patrick.

Governor Patrick explained that he supported the CORI Reform Bill because it was a way to help people secure housing and jobs when they got out of jail, and that it was necessary to help the people who'd never been to jail but had a criminal history.

Governor Patrick asked how many of us had heard of the CORI Reform Bill before and how many of us had criminal histories. I was surprised to find that five women knew nothing about CORI

Reform. Furthermore, about half of the remaining women had CORI's because of petty crimes, while the other half of the women had serious issues which were keeping them from getting a place to live or a job.

CORI Reform was a very important issue for Governor Patrick to address because of his stated goal to end homelessness in Massachusetts. His views are reflective of this idea when he told the ladies at Rosie's Place the following things which were on his mind;

"We've seen the largest private-sector job gain in 20 years here in Massachusetts within the last six consecutive months and that's twice as fast as the rest of the nation. The economy is bad but \$300 million in state and federal funds has been invested in training programs to put the unemployed back to work, and \$10 billion has been invested in creating Green Jobs.

"If you have issues around housing because of your CORI then I suggest you talk to a lawyer. If you want, I can make you a referral to talk to the Attorney General. That's part of their job" said Governor Patrick.

Once we started talking about MassHealth I found Governor Patrick was very interesting to listen to when he was talking. I learned things that I didn't know before about MassHealth such as;

"The House has held up the vote on MassHealth, but Congress has given \$4.3 million dollars to help with the increasing price of MassHealth," said Governor Patrick.

The governor stated that he was in support of The Anti-Bullying Laws, MassHealth and Green Jobs such as The Cape Wind wind farm program. His points of interest were stated as being good for our health and;

"I have implemented health insur-



Deval Patrick (not at Rosie's Place)

ance reform which resulted in 97.5 percent of Bay State residents having coverage and over 400,000 are now covered who weren't before and my administration has ended the risk of losing health coverage for loss of job, preexisting conditions, or personal bankruptcy as a result of a serious illness.

Along with implementing insurance reform resulting in 97.5 percent of Bay State residents having coverage, Governor Patrick also spoke about what he has done to curb skyrocketing health care costs.

"My administration helped curb the skyrocketing health care costs of small businesses by successfully negotiating for lower caps on excessive health care premiums with the state's four largest health insurance companies, bringing rate relief to 90% of the Commonwealth's small businesses.

"I signed legislation in August to provide further tools for small businesses

allowing them to save an additional 12% in health insurance costs," said Governor Patrick.

"I helped expand and launch new health services for returning soldiers and my Massachusetts has had invested \$500,000 to train returning veterans for Green Jobs," said Governor Patrick.

"My administration passed the largest land conservation initiative in the history of the nation," said Governor Patrick. "Massachusetts has the strongest laws to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, quadrupled the number of solar companies and nearly tripled solar jobs in Massachusetts, and we've finally made Cape Wind a reality in Massachusetts."

These are good things that Governor Patrick has done in the past but he never mentioned the bad things, or things such as cutting the budget to the MassHealth Dental Care Program, among other budget cuts.

BOWEN continued from page 3

freedom, a basic necessity in the infrastructure of our country. He remarked that "proponents of ever-more-restrictive health regulations ignore that people want and need to make their own personal decisions. Sir Michael Marmot, chairman of the World Health Organization Commission on Social Determinants of Health, has found that

people with little control over their lives suffer from ill health as much as, or more than, those who smoke or are obese.

Denying public-housing residents the right to determine the smoking policy in their own homes deprives many of them the one area of their lives over which they have any control. It is not only...intrusive, it is a danger to their health."

If you would like a chance to share your opinion about this issue, you can send comments by December 15th to:

Non-smoking Housing Policy Comments
c/o Administration
Boston Housing Authority
52 Chauncy Street
Boston, Ma 02111
Email: John.Kane@BostonHousing.org
In addition, you are invited to attend

a public hearing for review and comment of the Annual Plan at either time or location:

Monday, December 6, 2010
9:30 AM at 125 Amory St. Community Room Roxbury, MA 02119
or 6:00 PM at Roxbury Community College, Media Arts Building 1234 Columbus Avenue Roxbury, MA 02120

Begin with the End in Mind

Shay Kelley
Project 50/50

A guy named Vince gave me his old skateboard when I showed him that I knew how to use it. I had learned back in college, when it was how I got from the dorm to my classes. Almost two years after graduating, I found myself at 23 years old with a new reason to skateboard two miles a day. I was wearing black pants and no-slip shoes, a black polo shirt and an apron. Thanks to my new friend Mark, I had become a waitress. Long after a bachelor’s degree and a successful marketing career, I was skateboarding to a job where I served people beer and buffalo wings. Sometimes we have to adjust our standards.

My third day of training at the restaurant, they let me have my own section of tables. I made \$40 in tips, and I felt like a millionaire. For weeks, I had been living off of Chris and Mark. I didn’t have any money of my own, and I detested asking for help. I spent many days going hungry, lying to Mark about when I had eaten last. Chris would help snag some cigarettes when I was stressed out, but I felt like I was about to be given the “big-



gest mooch” award. The night when I had \$40 in my apron, I was on top of the world.

As I skateboarded to Mark’s house that night, I couldn’t wipe the smile off of my face. The best part was that it wasn’t just \$40 — it was a JOB. It was going to be a consistent cash income. I stopped at the store to see Chris and tell him. I had money! I gave him \$5, bought a pack of cigarettes, an energy drink and a bag of chips. It felt so good to purchase something.

By the time I got to the back porch and was smothered in Zuzu kisses, the

energy drink was gone and the chips had been eaten. I sat on the porch swing and pulled out another cigarette. Then I pulled out my money and counted it. As I unfolded each dollar bill, I realized that I had left the restaurant with \$40, but I had only come back with 25. This was still a lot of money, but I was struck by how quickly \$15 had disappeared, after nearly four weeks of having no more than 35 cents at a time. In that moment, I realized that this is part of the vicious cycle of poverty. I hadn’t had money in my pocket in so long, that when I got it, I spent it. I wanted to have all those

things that I hadn’t been able to have in so long. If this continued, I would be full of energy drinks and cigarettes while I slept on the couches of complete strangers for eternity.

Someone very wise told me once that I should “begin with the end in mind”, meaning to visualize the end result and then work backwards. All I knew at the time was that my desired ‘end’ was to get out of Mississippi. I realized that I needed to make daily choices that would reflect that thinking, and I made a decision sitting on the porch swing that night. For the next couple of months, I lived off of only one or two dollars a day. I ate lunch at the restaurant, and if I wanted cigarettes, I had to stack up my two dollars for a couple days to afford them. I worked as many shifts as possible, and I put all of my tip money in a really great hiding place. Eventually this amounted to a new “house”, (my Bubba), my independence, and this project. Goals are what get us through the moments in life where circumstances don’t seem to make sense. Start there, and work backwards.

Introduction To A Recovery Process



Aaron James
Spare Change News

The ride back from Illinois was long, to say the least. On night three of the concert I had pretty much

all but decided that once I got back to Massachusetts my life was going to change forever. We drove back in one day. I arrived back at my apartment around 8:00 P.M. I left for the trip without paying my roommate any rent! My paycheck from the week before, for two weeks and sixty hours, paid me about \$500, which of course all went to my trip. I also had to borrow money from a close friend on the way back. What was I doing? I could not afford the trip, yet there I was, half way across the country on my yearly vacation. I had a great time, and looking back, I would do it again. Without that last party, that last big binge, I would not be able to say to you now that I am three months sober from alcohol and all other drugs!

I wrote an article in ‘Spare Change’ back in August. While at the time I truly

thought I was being honest, I was not. I do not currently have a copy of the article; however, I know I wrote that I had put down all drugs except alcohol. I now look back and laugh. First, for the most part, this is true. However, I still occasionally used other drugs. Regardless, though, I failed to see that alcohol in itself was a cancer for me and everyone around me.

When I got back from that trip I knew I was not going to be welcomed back in the apartment. I knew my roommates were going to be quite angry. Back in Massachusetts we grabbed some beers before we got back. I asked my boy for one. I sipped it, cherished it, not really knowing when I would have another one. Big changes were about to be made. It was my last beer!

As soon as I got home, my roommate confronted me. I was given til the end of the month to move out. While I was obviously angry, I understood. I went to my friend’s apartment just down the street. We talked for a few hours. I explained how I needed help. I was going to check myself in. I was not yet to ready to say I needed to stop drinking, and rather was hoping for some

psychological help. I remember looking at her, thanking her for the support on my trip and asking, “how sick is my thinking, I had rent, I went on the trip instead, something is not right up there and I can’t figure it out.” I did not want to blame alcohol, yet. But deep down, I knew it was a problem. I went on to say to her, “I am sick of living broke every day. I am sick of this life, yet do not want to die, should I want to die? I don’t. I can be successful, if I can sleep right, be healthy, and somehow start living life correctly. I just can’t do it right now.”

We talked til midnight at which point I ended it. She told me to do what I needed to do and that she wanted the best for me. And to this day I would never doubt that she does! I left her back steps and walked down the street to the Cambridge Hospital. I was tried but in shock at the same time. Remember, we left the concert in Illinois at around midnight on Sunday, arriving back at eight. No sleep on the way. I was checking myself in at midnight on Monday. I sat in an ER room for several hours as nurses, doctors, and physiologist questioned me. I dozed off between them coming in and out. Finally, at around six in the

mourning they said they had gotten me a bed at Bournewood Detox.

The Doctor came back in, “It’s a five day dual program,” dual refers to both addiction and psychological treatment, “we talked to your parents and we all believe that this is best for you. Of course it is voluntary, but they want you to commit to at least five days.”

This was it. This was my last chance to decide against seeking the treatment I needed and starting the recovery process. Had I not been so tired, I might not have gone through with it. But, I nodded my head, and said “Let’s do it,” I said.

“Okay, rest up, we need to do some paperwork and the bed will not be ready until noon, so get some sleep!” The doctor smiled and left the room. I was in a daze. Coming off a week long party to this was quite the 180! Before long I was asleep. I was in dire need of rest. They woke me with lunch around noon. Before I was done with the so-called ‘lunch’, the ambulance was there to pick me up and bring me to Bournewood.

The following three months were uite the adventure. I made, I guess you

JAMES continued on page 8

The Old New Way to Save the World

In this new vernacular a charitable gift is not described as a donation but as an investment, and the charitable gift yields a return. Something like, “For every five dollars you donate one well in Africa is built. The well is the social return.

Daniel DeFraia
Spare Change News

Consider these phrases: “social entrepreneur,” “social intrapreneur,” “social business,” “social enterprise,” “social innovation,” “social innovators,” “social return,” and “venture philanthropy.” Consider the recent creation of the L3C, a low-profit Limited Liability Company (LLC) meant to generate profit through socially responsible investments, and the new B-Corporation, which according to Google, is “a new type of corporation that uses the power of business to create public benefit.” And the most blatant example of all, the neologism “philanthro-capitalism.” Take away the fancy phraseology, the nuanced definitions, and the wordsmithing, and two common denominators remain. Every example above combines the moral appeal of social benefit programs (or if you want to be extreme about it, socialism) with the institution of private wealth (or if you still want to be extreme, capitalism).

This isn’t the first rodeo for the marriage of social and capitalist language. Corporations have couched their products in social benefit since time immemorial. The idea is that if you see two identical products on the shelf, you’ll buy the one that is a product of fair trade or comes from “local” markets. It’s not just to make you buy their product, but to make you feel good about buying it.

This is old news, which every corporate social responsibility department knows. But the really interesting trend nowadays is that social benefit organizations like nonprofits are doing the same thing — social organizations have couched their goods and services in capitalist terms (the phrase “goods and services” makes you think Economics 101, right?)

The most concise example comes from the private consulting firm Monitor Group. In their report, “An Orientation for the Twenty-First Century Philanthropists,” they explicitly discuss philanthropy with the language of private business.

In this new vernacular a charitable gift is not described as a donation but as an investment, and the charitable gift yields a return. Something like, “For every five dollars you donate one well in Africa is built. The well is the social return. In other publications social issues are described as a market. Instead of a market for children’s toys it’s a market for obesity or homelessness. Monitor Group summarizes this entire transformation in two sentences, no doubt unconsciously, considering the sentences are given no special attention.

The old way: “Philanthropy corrects for the market, because the market is part of

the problem.”

And the new way: “Philanthropy connects to the market, because the market is part of the solution.” And this is not just rhetorical gymnastics or clever marketing.

The consulting firm for nonprofits La Piana, in their 2009 publication *Convergence*, reported five major trends in the nonprofit world, the fifth being the “blurring of sector boundaries,” as “nonprofit and for-profit benefit efforts are becoming less distinct.” Here are two examples.

Boston Community Capital (BCC) is a community development financial institution, a type of nonprofit that provides credit to low-income areas for socially beneficial projects like affordable housing, child-care facilities, youth services, and schools. They make equity investments in businesses to create local jobs and one way they do this is through their Venture Fund which is private money lent by individuals who expect to make a profit—but managed by the nonprofit BCC. Private money invested in nonprofit causes.

Muhammad Yanus is a joint 2006 Nobel Peace Prize recipient, along with the bank he founded, (Grameen Bank), “for [his] efforts to create economic and social development from below.” He is the author of the New York Times best-seller *Banker to the Poor*, and has written another book, *Building Social Business: The New Kind of Capitalism that Serves Humanity’s Most Pressing Needs*, published earlier this year.

The core principle of Yanus’ and BCC’s philosophy is simple: the institution of private wealth can solve social issues like malnourishment and poverty. Yanus writes that a social business intends “to solve a social problem by using business methods, including the creation and sale of products and services.” BCC is “founded on the conviction that financial return and social return need not be mutually exclusive.”

Yanus takes a chapter to define what a social business is and is not, making clear distinctions. A social business is a non-loss (all investments are recouped), non-dividend (investments are recouped but not one penny of profit is gained), and does not operate like a nonprofit because a social business rejects the practice of charity. It is also, despite its name, not a conventional business. A social business is cause-driven, not profit driven.

BCC and the social business, though very different, share one similarity. They reject the practice of charity. They can be lumped together in a somewhat crass yet apt phrase—capitalism with a social conscience.

Now consider the philosopher Slavoj

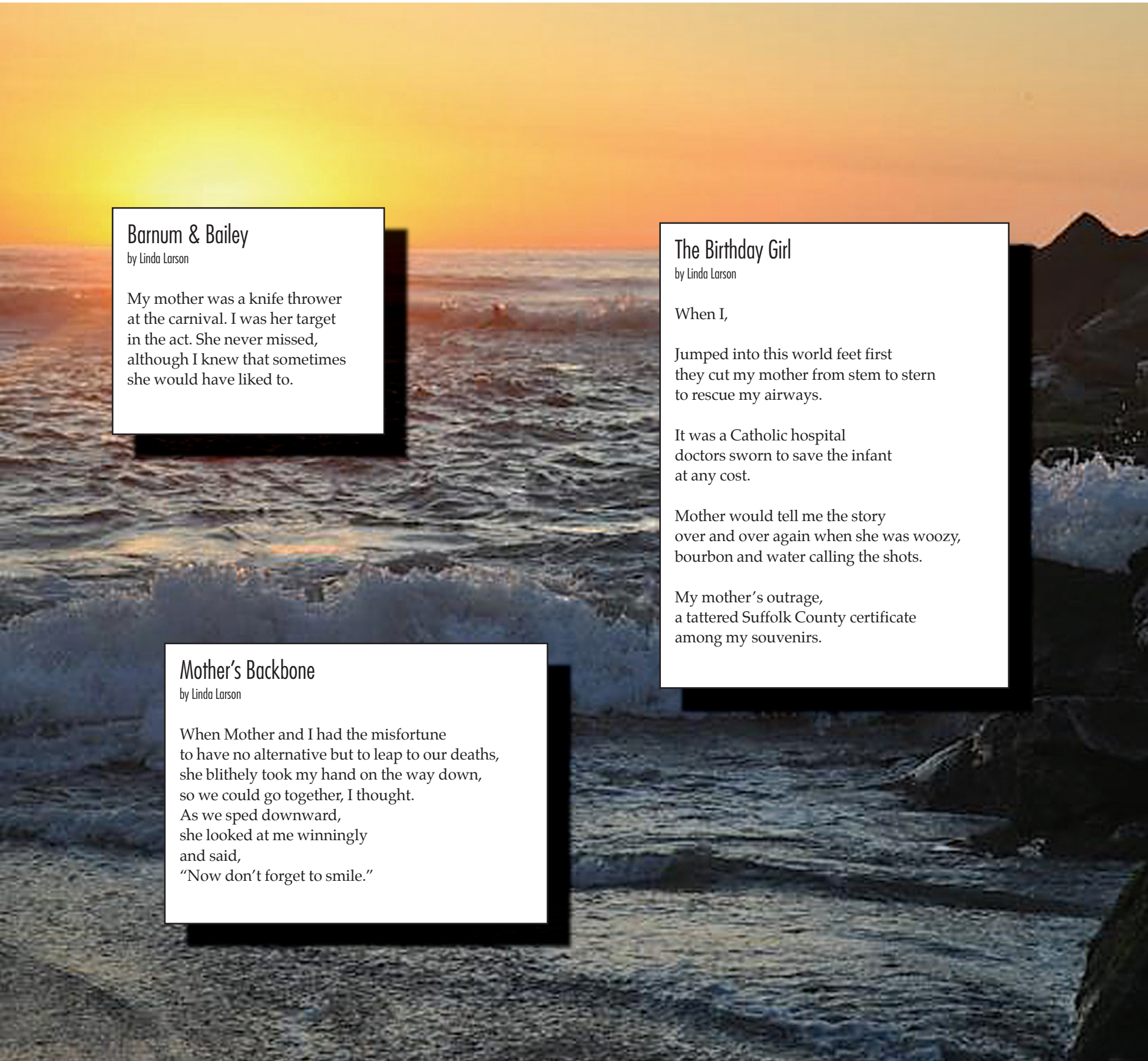
Zizek. Speaking in 2009 at the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufacturers, and Commerce, Zizek quoted in his lecture, “First as Tragedy, Then as Farce,” the always-quotable Oscar Wilde: ‘It is immoral to use private property to alleviate the evils that result from the institution of private property.’ Of course Zizek is not advocating for the end of all social programs. “My God,” he says, “I’m not against charity.” The point is, that while the institution of private wealth is just one cause of a depressing amount of social problems, there is “something hypocritical” about using private wealth to solve the problems it helped cause in the first place.

On a personal and fundamental level of humanity donating to your favorite charity to help people is eternally moral, but on a socially macro-level, charity from nonprofits, governments, and businesses are no viable, ethical, or systemic solution to abject poverty, malnutrition, illiteracy, etc...

And nonprofits may have come to a similar epiphanic realization concerning the inability of the charitable status quo. This may be the reason why some nonprofits have combined social sector and capitalist language and nonprofit and for-profit practices. Hence Yanus’ social business and BCC’s Venture Fund, both admirable programs that simultaneously make money and help people.

Yanus and BCC provide ample evidence to support their projects and philosophies. Since 1985 BCC has through socially responsible investments helped “Build or preserve affordable homes for over 10,000 families and individuals, support child care facilities serving over 7,000 children, finance schools and youth programs serving over 2,000 low-income students, renovate over 750,000 square feet of commercial real estate in distressed inner-city communities.” And they make money. Yanus’ socially responsible businesses like Grameen Danone, a yogurt company, and Grameen Veolia, a water treatment company, have proven the efficacy of the social business while helping thousands of impoverished people. He didn’t win the Nobel for nothing.

Can this new vision save the world? Can nonprofits be more like private business and private business more like nonprofits? Some intelligent, capable, and altruistic people think so, but it’s easy to pick a few examples from this big world to prove a point. The real questions, asked everyday by nonprofits and private businesses are these: How do we grow the idea and the practice; how do we get it to scale?



Barnum & Bailey

by Linda Larson

My mother was a knife thrower
at the carnival. I was her target
in the act. She never missed,
although I knew that sometimes
she would have liked to.

The Birthday Girl

by Linda Larson

When I,

Jumped into this world feet first
they cut my mother from stem to stern
to rescue my airways.

It was a Catholic hospital
doctors sworn to save the infant
at any cost.

Mother would tell me the story
over and over again when she was woozy,
bourbon and water calling the shots.

My mother's outrage,
a tattered Suffolk County certificate
among my souvenirs.

Mother's Backbone

by Linda Larson

When Mother and I had the misfortune
to have no alternative but to leap to our deaths,
she blithely took my hand on the way down,
so we could go together, I thought.
As we sped downward,
she looked at me winningly
and said,
"Now don't forget to smile."



Poems may be submitted to: Marc D. Goldfinger,
76 Unity Ave. Belmont MA, 02478

or email: sparechangepoetry@gmail.com. SCN cannot return poetry
submissions, and authors will be contacted only if their poems are published.

Every Thursday
Squawk Coffeehouse, 9 pm
1555 Mass Ave., Cambridge
Open mike for poets and musicians.

Every Saturday
Out of the Blue Gallery, 8 pm
106 Prospect St., Cambridge
\$3-5 suggested donation.
671- 354-5287

Every Sunday
Lizard Lounge Poetry Slam, 7 pm
1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge
\$5. 671- 547-0759

Every Monday
Out of the Blue Gallery, 8 pm
106 Prospect St., Cambridge
\$4 suggested donation.
617-354-5287

Every Wednesday
Boston Poetry Slam, 8 pm
Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave.,
Cambridge
\$3. 21+. 617-354-2685

Second Thursday of Every Month
Tapestry of Voices, 6:30 pm
Borders, 10 School St., Boston
Free. 617-557-7188

Second Tuesday of Every Month
Newton Free Library, 7 pm
330 Homer St. 617-796-1360

Third Saturday of Every Month
Boston Haiku Society meeting,
2-6 pm
Kaji Aso Studio,
40 St. Stephen St., Boston
\$3. 617-247-1719

*Poetry event listings may be
submitted to
sceditor@homelessempowerment.org*

PEN New England's Tribute to Howard Zinn

Seth Kershner
Spare Change News

When historian Howard Zinn died in January of this year, Spare Change News lost a dear friend and one its most fervent supporters. By now, so much has already been said concerning Howard's contributions to the struggle for social justice, civil rights, and a better world. Nevertheless, a few points are worth noting.

After manning the barricades during the civil rights struggles in the South – and after losing his teaching position at Spellman College because of his political activity – Zinn moved to Boston. He taught for the duration of his career at Boston University, a period marked by frequent clashes with the university administration of John Silber, who (unsuccessfully) sought to have Zinn fired again. It was during his time in Boston that Zinn wrote the book that would make him famous: *A People's History of the United States*. *A People's History* was an effort to write a record of this country from the bottom up, relying extensively on the voices of those who are so often ignored in history textbooks: women, people of color, the very poor, the marginalized and socially stigmatized. As Howard's good friend Noam Chomsky wrote shortly after his death, his life "was devoted, selflessly, to empowerment of the unknown people who brought about great moments" in history.

A devotion to those "unknown people" might perhaps explain Howard's support for the work of Spare Change News. Through the years he donated time and money to Spare Change News and the Homeless Empowerment

Project. Then there were his words, some of which were so meaningful that they were tacked onto the walls of the editorial office at Spare Change. "Spare Change to me is an extraordinary illustration of what homeless people can do, because they can reach out to the public and say 'Here we are, and we're intelligent and sensitive people. We're poets; we're writers; we're not crazy. We'll tell you what caused our situation and we'll ask you to do something about it.'"

His incredible generosity and interest in Spare Change extended to the alternative press in general. In an article published in Spare Change News in 1996, he wrote that since the "major media are really complicit in everything that's going on" it becomes necessary to "read little community newspapers. You have to read the radical press. You have to read all of these fliers that people hand out on the streets. You have to read Spare Change. These are sources of information that you can't get anywhere else." A recent gathering at First Church on Harvard Square sought to highlight the legacy that Zinn bequeathed to the alternative press and to the world of radical writers and independent publishers.

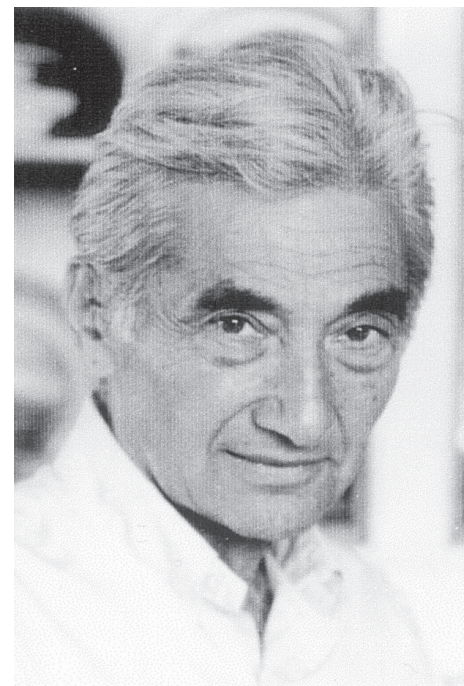
On October 3, PEN New England organized a tribute to Howard Zinn to celebrate his "legacy to the writing and publishing community." A special panel of writers and publishers included the accomplished Puerto Rican-American poet Martín Espada, sports writer Dave Zirin, and publishers Marc Favreau and Helen Atwan of the New Press and the Beacon Press, respectively.

Two awards were presented that evening, in keeping with PEN's mission as an international literary and

human rights organization. The Vasyl Stus Award was given to Zargana, a Burmese writer and comedian who is currently serving a 35-year prison sentence for his political work. The Thomas Paine Award, recognizing an "American writer who demonstrates a dedication to speaking truth to power," was given posthumously to Howard Zinn. And in a move that surprised many who were in attendance, a PEN representative announced that future recipients of the award would no longer know it by the name Thomas Paine, but rather as the Howard Zinn Award.

Remarkable stories were certainly in abundance when it came time for the panel discussion at First Church. The poet Martín Espada discussed his friendship with Howard and related the story of how the gray-haired professor had once managed to entrance Espada's ten-year-old son with an impromptu dinner-time tale of Eugene Debs, the labor organizer who didn't let being imprisoned prevent him from earning a million votes as a Socialist Party candidate for president in 1920.

The story about Espada's son really resonated with another panelist, Dave Zirin. In his regular column for The Progressive and other forums, Zirin has for years used examples from the history of sport to try and show how politics and athletics intersect. But when he was a youngster, he felt turned off to the study of history. That all changed when he took up a teacher's recommendation to read Zinn's *A People's History of the United States*. "It was the sort of thing where I would read two pages of it and put it down," Zirin said. "If I read too much of it it was dangerous, as



though if I continued I would have to do something about what I was reading." Howard Zinn "has really been our collective history teacher," Zirin added, "and anybody in this country who's involved in any kind of radical politics probably has a good People's History story" to tell.

Howard Zinn's influence can indeed be felt far and wide – and not just in the world of books and authors. He left a decisive mark in the world of political activism as well. "The legacy of Howard Zinn is seen in anybody who actually does the work to agitate for a more just world," Zirin said, "because that's what Howard Zinn's world was about. He taught us all that history could actually be shaped by ordinary people who did extraordinary things."

JAMES continued from page 5

could say, four stops along the way. I spent six days at Bournewood, 10 days at a Danvers post-detox program, then about two months at a sober house in Roxbury, and then eventually ended up back in Cambridge in November. At each stop I have learned a lot. Recovery is quit the process. I am a different person today however with the same flaws. Money management continues to be an issue for me. I ran up so many debts that I feel are impossible to ever pay off. But they are, and someday I will have a net worth. I have lost some close friends. Some friends surprised me and are still there for me so long as the drinking remains dormant. And to them I am forever thankful.

I do not want to nor am I going to

push my sobriety on anyone. I have learned that I have a disease and the problem is with me, not alcohol. I have currently got no problem being around other drinkers. A counselor in Danvers got through to me. She taught me how to think rationally. While I support the A.A cause and attend meetings here and there, I am not a fanatic of the program. I do not need meetings to stay sober. Millions of Americans do and I understand how and why it is a helpful tool for many of them, and by no means do I judge someone who attends them religiously any more than I would judge someone still actively drinking. We all have our own program. We are all different people. My program entails sobriety. You likely are not an alcoholic and can drink and still keep up with your responsibilities. Good for you. I never

will judge a drinker, but please do not judge a non-drinker either.

I still pop my head into local bars and say hello. And yes, at times, I get a hard time for coming to a bar and not buying a beer. It's a completely different feeling being in a bar now. I do not quit understand why it's a big deal if food is being served. I wrote in my article three months ago that I wanted to tell you about my upbringing, and I do. But right now, I want to share with my readers, my path to becoming truly sober, what I learned, what worked, what didn't, and how we can someday as a nation, win the drug war successfully.

I am excited about the new life ahead of me. Yes, there are still challenges and stresses, and these are normal facts of life that I can now deal with on a daily basis. I can manage my life. Though not

a perfect manager yet, I have made great strides from three months ago. Putting down the bottle was only the start to fixing my life. However, I could not have started without first putting down the bottle.

I am going to dedicate my next four articles to each stop I have made. At Bournewood I had to deal with the physical aspects of detoxing from daily drinking. At Danvers, I learned how to think properly. At the sober house I learned how to manage my life as a sober human being. And now, back in Cambridge, I am learning how to put everything I learned during the process to work. There were ups and there were downs and I look forward to sharing those with you. And thank you for your support and interest in my journey.

-Aaron James

Jessica’s Story

Norman Watne
Spare Change News

According to a 2002 study by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in the US Department of Justice there are an estimated 1,682,900 homeless and runaway youth in the United States. It’s a problem we’re never going to be able to solve entirely, especially not with another government program.

There is a better option, but it’s not going to be presented from too many circles. We need to let more children work. The child labor laws now on the books only make the problem worse. They need to be changed.

Jessica (not her real name) should know. She was one of those kids once.

When she was 16, she ran away from home because she believed then (and now) that living on the street was safer than staying at home. She survived, and eventually thrived.

Homelessness is particularly frightening for women. Without the traditional protections of family and a job, females, especially under-aged girls, become vulnerable to assault and rape. And they are more likely to turn to prostitution or crime to eke out an existence.

Jessica says she was lucky.

“It was legal for me to work, and I did so as a file clerk in an appliance store. But the owner broke labor laws by allowing me to stay on the premises at night,” Jessica said. “In return, I put in unpaid overtime. Because the owner took a chance on me, I never had to consider prostitution, begging, selling drugs, or the other dead-ends that many homeless teens confront. If I had been 15, I am sure he would have never taken the risk.”

“Why didn’t I go to a government agency for help? It isn’t that easy. For most kids, it’s hard to find a place willing to open its doors for more than a day or two,” said Jessica. “Even then, the only goal of the ‘authorities’ is to get the kid home.”

The issue of homeless youth is receiving more attention because of several recent studies finding their numbers on the rise. A recent study conducted by the City Mayor’s office in Boston found that, since 1990, the number of homeless children in the city has tripled.

The situation confronting homeless teens is worse today than when Jessica ran away. It was the dead of winter when she left, and for the first nights she slept on the pew of a church whose

doors were always open.

“Today, those doors would probably be locked. I was at one point ‘discovered,’ which was my greatest fear,” said Jessica. “But the person simply put a blanket over me and left without waking me up. Today, society is numbed to homelessness; we are overwhelmed with compassion fatigue and acts of gratuitous kindness seem to be fewer. We avert our eyes from the hand-painted signs and ignore the rattling cups.”

Jessica continued, “Many of the solutions offered to the problem of runaways will never work. Even if there were ‘enough’ funding from already exhausted taxpayers, such notoriously inefficient and soul-numbing government programs as welfare only create dependency.

“Those who will not trust authority or who have been further abused by government agencies will stay on the streets. What they need is to have the same chance I did. They deserve the right to work so they can take care of themselves without begging or turning to crime.

“Child labor laws were intended as a way to prevent the exploitation of children in sweatshops and factories;

they weren’t designed to prohibit teenagers from working in a warm fast-food restaurant. They were never meant to force a 15-year-old into prostitution or drug dealing in order to be able to pay for a safe and legal place to sleep.”

“In many states, 14 is the minimum legal age for some non-agricultural jobs. But the law usually restricts the conditions under which they can work so tightly (e.g. the number of hours to be worked) that it is difficult for them to make a living. Or, at least, to do so in a legal manner.”

Advocating that under-aged teenagers be allowed to work is bound to elicit an outraged backlash. No one wants to see children forced to support themselves. But many teens are already are on their own, and working at a menial, low-paid job may well be the best way a teen can get off the street and get a new life.

Jessica stated to me that it took her more than five years to find a way to get herself back on her feet. She and her two young children now occupy an apartment, but she refuses to forget the toughest period of her life (the streets). She also credits the one person that not only opened his doors to her, but his heart as well.

The Homeless Empowerment Project’s Speakers Bureau

Ever wonder what it’s like to be homeless? Want to learn more about it while at the same time supporting the Homeless Empowerment Project, publisher of Spare Change and Whats Up?

- Then take a look at our Speakers Bureau. -

You’ve probaably already seen a lot of our dedicated vendors selling papers at various T stops around Cambridge & Boston, but now here’s your chance to actually hear their personal stories and learn from their experiences.

Most of our vendors are homeless or at risk of homelessness, and all have experienced severe economic disadvantage. They are a diverse and hard-working group of men and women with stories to inspire and educate us all.

The Speakers Bureau is the perfect way for teachers, professors, community organizations or congregtation leaders to educate their groups and put a human face on the realities of poverty and homelessness here in Mass.

Invite a vendor to come speak to your organization, school or congregation by contacting our main office at 617.497.1595 or emailing us at sceditor@homelessempowerment.org.



Voices From The Streets

Voices from the Streets - a forum for those whose voices are too often ignored. From narratives to opinion to advice, these writers portray a unique perspective on life that might otherwise go unnoticed. Below, find that turning an ear towards those normally silenced opens the door to understanding and relating to those who have faced life on the street.

One Morning At The Mall



Marc D. Goldfinger
Spare Change News

The Chestnut Hill Mall was a comfortable temperature, I noted, as three women passed me, power-walking the length of the mall. They'd reach the end, turn about, and come back, over and over again.

As I watched them I noticed a man carrying two battered plastic garbage bags enter the mall. His clothing was somewhat tattered and he was layered with multiple shirts and two jackets, one under the other. His under-jacket was slightly longer than his overcoat and both of the garments were speckled with stains in multiple places.

The man came, looked around and noticed a group of soft chairs and a couch in the center of the mall. He trundled his belongings over to them and, after carefully laying the bags on the floor, he sat down. His face looked weather-worn, rough and red, and it appeared as if he hadn't shaved for a week or so.

I watched the women on their trip down the mall hall and as they passed the spot where the man was sitting they all stared at him. They looked at each other and grimaced. I was sitting on the other side of the grouping of chairs and couches and I watched as the women continued past.

The man, who was baggage laden, closed his eyes and he quickly fell into what appeared to be a restful sleep. I opened a book to read. Christmas music was playing softly in the background. I was about one-half hour early for a lesson on my new Apple computer and engrossed myself in an exciting book by Joe Hill called *The Heart-Shaped Box*.

I looked up for a moment and noticed the three women talking with a man dressed as a security guard, thought nothing of it, and went back to reading.

Suddenly, I sensed another presence in the area I was waiting.

The security guard was standing over the sleeping man nearby me.

"Excuse me," he said loudly. "Wake up."

The man slowly came to awareness and looked up at the security guard.

"What do you think you're doing here buddy?", said the guard sternly.

"Sir," said the man, "I'm just grabbing a few winks out here before the mall gets busy. It's very cold out there and I have no place to live."

"Not my problem," said the guard. "You'll have to pack your [expletive] and leave."

"But I'm not bothering anyone, sir," said the man.

I spoke up.

"He's been here almost as long as I have and I don't mind. I'm just waiting for a computer lesson and I'm early."

The guard looked at me, his eyes glinting with fury and said, "This is none of your business."

"Hey," I said, "the guy is just a human being who needs a place to rest for a short time. He's not bothering anyone."

"Well, the women who are power-walking the mall differ with your opinion. They're bothered."

"Listen," I said, "what's their problem? They're using the mall for their purposes and he's using the mall for his."

"We don't like his kind around here," said the guard.

"What do you mean by 'his kind', buddy?"

"Are you looking to get arrested?" the guard angrily said loudly.

He turned to the old man, who appeared genuinely disturbed now, and said, "Pack your [expletive] and get the [expletive] out of here."

I just sat there and watched, afraid to say anything else. The guard has used the magic "arrest" word and directed it at me. The older man picked up his bags, sighed softly, and slowly walked to the exit of the mall.

The guard glared at me for a minute, then walked away. My chest ached. I put the book back in my leather knapsack and closed my eyes as the guard stomped away.

I asked myself why it was okay for the women to walk the mall but the apparently homeless man could not rest there out of the winter's cold? The world has become hard, bitter and strange. In the background I could hear the giant machines that kept the mall temperate humming away.

It was a song of sorrow. I knew that if I hummed a few bars I'd wind up behind some. I packed my gear and went to the Apple store for my computer class. The women walked past me, chattering and laughing, and their beady eyes reminded me of predatory birds.

It was hard to concentrate on my class. I kept thinking about the homeless man who just wanted a warm place to rest. I remembered that just about 12 years ago, that man was me. In today's economic times, tomorrow that man or woman could be you.

When you pass someone on the street begging for money while the cold winter wind beats on your skin, think about your humanity and reach into your pocket. In today's world, my wife and I write checks for food pantries and shelters. We're just lucky. Both of us have experienced homelessness and we'll never forget. I think about the homeless man at the mall and wonder where he is. I hope he's in a safe warm place today that he can call his own.

Happy Thanksgiving.

Marc D. Goldfinger is a formerly homeless vendor who is now housed. He can be reached at: junkietroll@yahoo.com

tales from the curb

POWERTRIP



James Shearer
Spare Change News

I was talking with a friend the other day. After the annual cup of coffee and grouching about what was wrong with the Patriots he began to discuss how he was preparing for his yearly housing inspection from the housing authority that issued his Section 8 certificate.

For you, the uneducated, who don't know what Section 8 is, it is a rental subsidy issued by HUD that helps folks with low incomes pay rent for apartments that they can't afford on their own. It pays a substantial portion of the rent, while folks pay up to 30% of their earned income. Sounds good, right? Well, it is, except for a couple of small hiccups.

First of all the program is woefully underfunded and its' budget is usually either cut severely or frozen by the Feds, depending on who's running Washington. Certificates are sometimes hard to come by, and folks are put on lists where they have to wait, and wait, sometimes for months, or even years. Also, you'd think that with guaranteed money from the government, landlords would be all over it, right? Well, not so much. With Section 8, landlords can't charge outrageous rents. So rather than take the guaranteed cash, some landlords discriminate against people with these certificates (Yes, I know there are laws against that, but it's hard to enforce if it's not reported).

The most annoying thing about Section 8 is what my friend was going through. You see, HUD administers Section 8's locally through most housing authorities. Apparently these authorities don't have any guidelines on how exactly they supervise or award these certificates. It seems as if the Housing Authorities make up the rules as they go along,. For inspection, my friend has to have his place clean of course, but he also told me that at his last inspection the inspectors were trying to pry into his personal life, looking at his medication bottles and questioning if he is the only person living there. When he said that he has a girlfriend, they wanted to know details, like who she was. Did she live there? Is she on drugs? Etc. Mind you, these yearly inspections are only supposed to be making sure that the apartment is up to code. They are supposed to be more to check up on the landlord, not the tenant.

I've heard of situations like the one my friend was talking about before; I've heard stories of inspectors going through people's personal belongings, spying, and even threatening to snatch away their certificates. I began to think about not only those in charge of Section 8's, but also about the people who work directly with low-income and homeless people. Social workers, shelter workers, housing people, and yes, sadly, even people who have worked here at Spare Change. Not everyone in the field, mind you, are like that, but there are some people who work in the field who act like Ebenezer

SHEARER continued on next page

Teaching skills and getting friendship in return

Staff Writer
Aurora da Rua (Brazil)

From social worker to sports instructor, Jairo Marques swapped the streets for soccer pitches. Three years ago, the coach put together a team of homeless people at the Salvador Centre for Social Reintegration and has used the sport for resocialization.

How did the idea to create a football team of homeless people come about?

“In 2007, I was working with the homeless. My work was basically to gather people on the streets and take them to the social reintegration centre to do nothing. I started to realize that my job was like melting ice. There was no point at all. That same year, there was a soccer tournament and they needed someone to referee the game. But the coaches were reluctant because it involved a team of homeless people. As I had experience with street people and sporting events, I used both and made myself available to help the team. At game time, I gathered the crowd and said a prayer with them in the middle of the pitch. I asked them to help me make everything work well and I promised that if it went well, football would not be just once a year, but would run throughout the year. It worked. The game was a success and I was asked to work at the Center for Social Reintegration every week. Now I help with physical education, football, stretching and even pro-

vide guitar lessons.”
What are the values you seek to promote through football?

“Respect, unity, fraternity. Sport is actually a great tool to integrate people. In football, you learn to think collectively, to work as a team, to know how to lose and to win. We get closer to one another. Football gives you some great moments of well-being and happiness, especially for those coming from the street. As well as sobering you up. If you are on the team you cannot drink alcohol or use drugs. Before going onto the pitch we say our motto together: “We play football to better our lives.” I remember my happiness when we started the team. Working while knowing you’re helping others to reintegrate is undoubtedly a great satisfaction. I speak their language, understand the reality in which they live. The return is friendship. They call me daddy and when I meet them on the street it’s a party.”

How do you see the growth of players after being involved in football?

“The first change is in their aggression. When many of them start playing they are nervous and aggressive. Over time, they learn to be good sports, to be more calm and more patient. Sport is health, it aids in human development and brings benefits to the body and mind. The fact of having a uniform, sports equipment, being part of a team and being a player already really increases the self-esteem of someone



living on the streets, and instills discipline and responsibility. Their own behavior reflects this. One day, I was on the bus and one of them who is a street seller started talking, saying that he was a football player and was part of a team. I was glad to see that the sport helps them feel more like people, more capable. And the good thing is that society also learns to look at them in a more humane way.”

How does your work help society see homeless people more humanely?

“We organize competitions that bring together residents of the street with the residents of the neighborhood. As we usually play at the Boa Viagem pitch, we play against teams of people who live in that neighborhood. These games

are great. People have the opportunity to get to know each other and make friends. I’ve heard many positive comments. Some people think that because they are homeless, the games would turn into brawls. On the contrary, I work as a sports instructor in other places, with people with a more stable social situation, and none of them are as disciplined as this group from the Centre. They are a real example. So in the end, when the team eventually wins a match against a team from the neighborhood, we’ll celebrate with a beer. They can drink as much as they like and it is all on my bill.”

Originally published by Aurora da Rua, Brazil. © www.streetnewsservice.org

SHEARER continued from previous page

Scrooge on a daily basis. They seem to take pure delight at the fact that a decision they make could affect someone’s life, and not for the better.

I have both lived in the system, and worked in it, and I can tell you first hand some pretty cruel things that I have experienced, seen, and been a part of. Power does indeed corrupt. I’ve watched shelter workers throw people out into the cold for no other reason that they were having a bad day. I’ve watched people take advantage of those who either can’t read or can’t understand what is going on. I’ve watched distribution managers here browbeat vendors to tears, and before you ask, no, those people are no longer employed with Spare Change. I’ve watched people make decisions that have cost people their lives.

So, what do we do about it? I think the bigger question is how did it get to be this way? Who’s minding the store?

Apparently nobody. How else can you explain a system that has gotten to a point where mindless bureaucrats can tell someone how to run their own household? At some point, someone stopped caring, and now we leave the caring for some of the most vulnerable in the hands of people who are evidently overcompensating for something. Maybe they didn’t get enough love at home, or maybe it’s a power thing. People who are so unimportant, that they are cruel and mean to those less fortunate and then they go brag about it. I know I’ve heard it and seen it. At one time in the beginnings of this very organization I lived it, when I was the henchman of a so-called leader who was nothing more than a dictator, a misunderstood overgrown child whose only way to cope was to use his power to hurt people.

So as I said what do we do? It starts at the top. Only leaders of organizations can stop the power tripping, by first curbing their own.

Please be sure sure that you
purchase copies of
Spare Change News
only from
authorized vendors
who wear
Blue 2010 badges.
Anyone else may
be running a scam.
Vendors are also not
allowed to solicit donations for
Spare Change News
or any outside organization.

Spare Change Goes Viral

Last October Spare Change published the story “Coming Into View: Advocate’s Website Provides Voice To The Homeless,” which introduced homeless advocate Mark Horvath’s new social media literacy website for the homeless, www.wearevisible.com, to the world.

Horvath’s story was submitted by Laurie Bowen, who coincidentally was writing for Spare Change for the first time. shortly after was Spare Change broke the story, it was submitted to the Street News Service, an online news agency that publishes the best of street papers from around the world. The stories published on the Street News Service are also made available for other street papers to republish.

According to the Street News Service Bowen’s story got a lot of hits on their website, and was even republished in the South African street paper, The Big Issue, which used the article to discuss online possibilities for the homeless in South Africa.

To view the story in it’s entirety visit, <http://sparechangenews.net/news/coming-view-advocate%E2%80%99s-website-provides-voice-homeles>

Social media

Giving a voice to the voiceless

By Lauren Bowen

A cartoon Mark Horvath walks onto the screen wearing jeans and a brown sports coat. He addresses the camera calmly and introduces himself; he's the man most people know primarily as @hardlynorml on Twitter. What they may not know is that he was once homeless.

"Trust me," the animated Horvath laughs as a three-dimensional globe materialises above him and begins to spin, "at first, I thought Twitter was dumb, but social media has transformed my life." And he knows that it will help many other lives as well, which is why he created the site where this introductory video can be found: www.wearevisible.com, a social media literacy site that focuses on the homeless.

Although based in the United States, where

Horvath lives and works, the website acts as an instructional resource for anyone who wants to learn the increasingly powerful tools of email, blogging, accessing widespread communities, and yes, even Tweeting.

For those accustomed to using the internet, it's easy to take having a world of information at your fingertips for granted. Horvath, however, sees the potential of this phenomenon as a vehicle for powerful social change.

His We Are Visible site is, most importantly, a way to give a voice to the so-often voiceless. For Horvath this hits especially close to home. "At my first homeless shelter, they sent us out for labour trafficking. You know, feed a bum all day, you can work 'em. We all screamed loud, but nobody

listened. That was 15 years ago."

Just this past April, women at Washington DC's Family Emergency Shelter were victims of the sexual misconduct of employees of the shelter. It is hard to imagine how powerless those women felt when they were made victims in the only place where they could find food and shelter. Horvath asks, "What if they had the power to scream about it? What if they had the power that we all take for granted? That's social media."

Mobilising a borderless community

Aside from heading off injustice and crime, social media can be used to mobilise communities faster and more effectively than ever before.

Horvath has experienced the benefits firsthand. A homeless man he was helping get back into the job market got mugged on his way to an interview. The man was stuck in a strange city in the middle of a brutal winter not knowing another soul, and all the shelters were full.

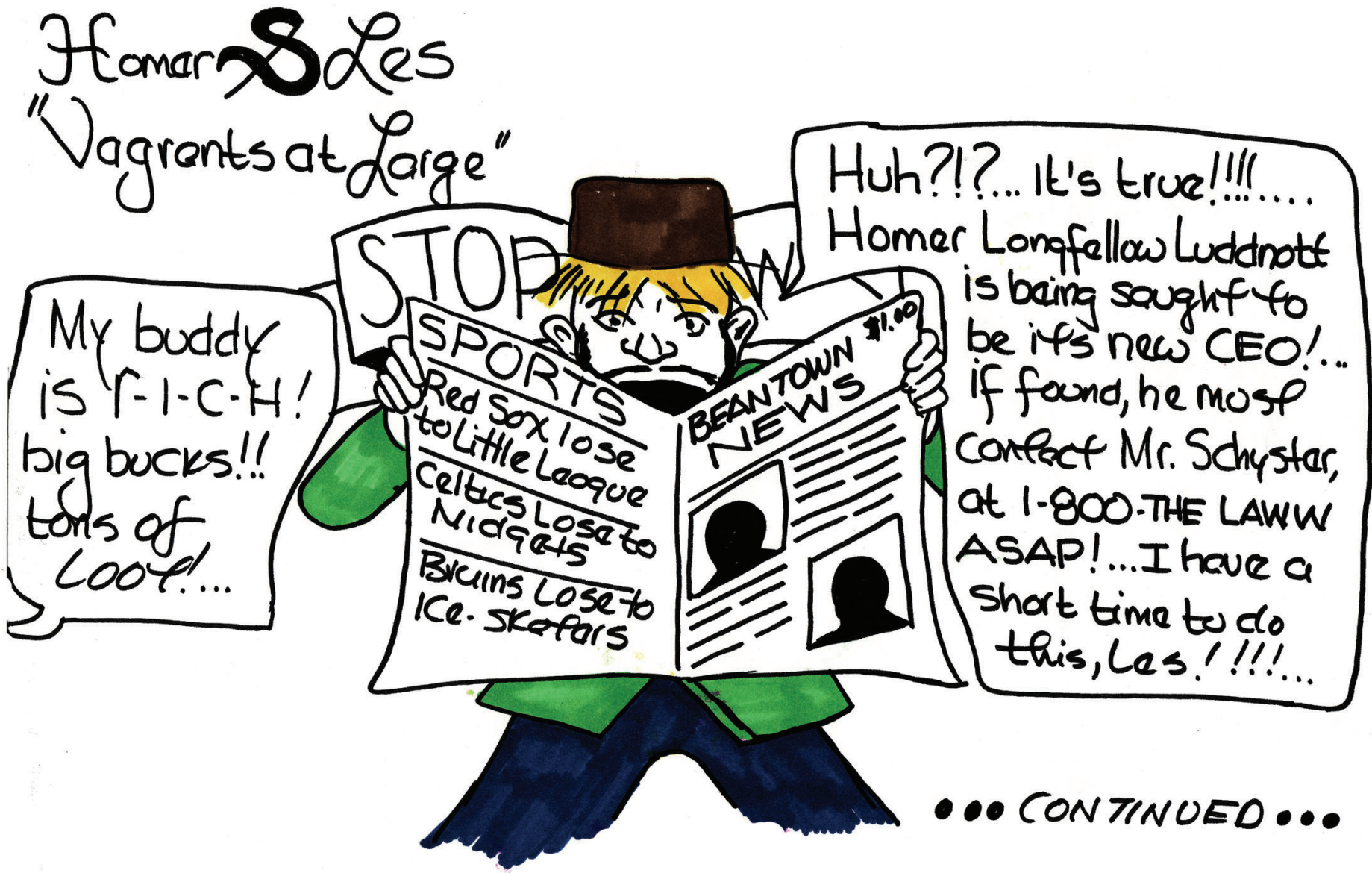
"I felt powerless and I didn't know what to do, so I went to Twitter. Someone from Twitter actually went over and gave him a hundred bucks. Somebody I didn't even know."

To Horvath, this story is not unique.

More and more people are using the perpetual conversation of the world wide web to reach out, making it easier to match cases of need with the resources that can help. This is what Horvath refers to as "virtual

@hardlynorml

Facebook is one place where I can post how I'm feeling and the problems I'm facing, and I won't get ignored," — Debbie Lightbody



Helping Hands

Cambridge and Boston are teeming with organizations ready to provide food and services to the homeless and the needy. If you're in need, they're there for you. If you can volunteer or donate, most of them could use your help.

Food

DAILY MEALS:

Boston Rescue Mission
39 Kingston ST., Boston
Community meals: 3pm weekdays, and 5pm Sundays
(no Saturdays).

Pine Street Inn
444 Harrison Ave., Boston, 617-482-4944
Breakfast: 6 a.m.; brown bag lunches during the day;
Dinner: 5 p.m.; Chicken truck: 11:30 a.m.
Rosie's Place (women & children only, no boys over age 11)
889 Harrison Ave., Boston, 617-442-9322
Lunch: 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.; Dinner: 4:30 p.m. – 7 p.m.
St. Francis House
39 Boylston St., Boston, 617-542-4211
Breakfast: 7:30 a.m. – 9 a.m.; Lunch: 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Emergency sandwiches: Weekdays 2:45 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Salvation Army 402 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, 617-547-3400
Lunch: 12 p.m.

Women's Lunch Place (women & children only, no boys over age 14, male presence discouraged)
67 Newbury St., Boston., 617-267-0200
Open Mon. – Sat., 7 a.m. – 2p.m.
www.womenslunchplace.org

WEEKLY MEALS

Monday:

Boston Rescue Mission
39 Kingston St., Boston
Food pantry: 9-11am (except holidays). Bring proof
of address.
Church of the Holy Resurrection
64 Harvard Ave., Allston, 617-787-7625
6 p.m. – 7 p.m. and take-out.
Mass. Ave. Baptist Church
146 Hampshire St., Cambridge, 617-868-4853
6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday:

Church of the Advent
30 Brimmer St., Boston, 617-523-2377 6 p.m.
First Parish Unitarian Church
3 Church St., Cambridge, 617-876-7772
6 p.m. – 7 p.m. (doors open at 5:30 p.m.)
Faith Kitchen, Faith Lutheran Church
311 Broadway, Cambridge, 617-354-0414
6:30 p.m. (second & last Tuesday of every month)

Wednesday:

Salvation Army 402 Mass. Ave., Cambridge,
617-547-3400 5 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Thursday:

Christ Church, Zero Garden St. Cambridge,
617-876-0200 6 p.m. St. James Church
1991 Mass. Ave, Cambridge
The Women's Meal (Women and children welcome)
5 p.m. - 7 p.m. (food pantry 3 days/week)
Union Baptist Church
874 Main St., Cambridge, 617-864-6885 5 p.m.

Friday:

Arlington St. Church
351 Boylston St., Boston, 617-536-7050 5 p.m.
Food Not Bombs
Boston Common (near Park St. T station), 617-522-8277
3 p.m. – 5 p.m.
Mass. Ave. Baptist Church
146 Hampshire St., Cambridge, 617-868-4853
6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Saturday:

Pilgrim Church 540 Columbia Rd, Dorchester
approx 8:45 (Boston Commons, near fountain)
 We serve soup, pasta, coffee, juice, pastries, sandwiches,
 and clothing once a month.
 12-1:30 pm
 We offer a free community lunch, it is a cafe style, and we
 serve the guests, no standing in line. The meals are hot and
 made with love by our very talented chef

Sunday:

Food Not Bombs
955 Mass Ave
(617) 787-3436
Central Square Cambridge on Sundays from 3-5pm.

FOOD ASSISTANCE

Greater Boston Food Bank, 617-427-5200
Serves non-profit organizations such as agencies, shelters, etc.
Office hours: 8 a.m. -- 4:30 p.m.

Project Bread • 617-723-5000; Hotline 1-800-645-8333
Referrals to food pantries throughout the city

Somerville Food Pantry • 617-776-7687
Food pantry: Mon, Tue, Fri 10 a.m. -- 2 p.m.; Wed 12 p.m. -- 4 p.m.; Thu 1 p.m. -- 4 p.m.
Somerville residents only. Those unable to use other pantries due to disability may call and ask for the Project Soup Delivery Coordinator.

Brookline Food Pantry
15 St. Paul St., Brookline, 617-566-4953
Tues. & Thurs. 10 a.m. -- 2 p.m., Sat. 2 p.m. -- 4 p.m.
Brookline residents only. Second-time visitors must present a letter from an advocate confirming that they are in need of food services.

CEOC (*Cambridge Economic Opportunity Commission*)
11 Inman St. (basement), Cambridge, 617-868-2900
Food pantry: Mon, Wed 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.; Tue 12 p.m. – 2 p.m.; Thu 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.; Closed Fri.
East End House
105 Spring St., Cambridge, 617-876-4444
Food pantry: Tue 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.; Fri 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Offers assistance in filling out food stamp applications (call for appointment).
Margaret Fuller Houses
71 Cherry St., Cambridge, 617-547-4680
Food pantry: Wed. 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.; Thurs. 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. & 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.; Fri & Sat 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Pentecostal Tabernacle Church • 617-661-0222
Food pantry by appointment only; no deliveries or walk-ins; referrals to other food pantries

Salvation Army
402 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, 617-547-3400
Cambridge and Somerville residents only.
Food pantry: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. & by appointment
St. Francis House
39 Boylston St., Boston, 617-542-4211
Food pantry: Mon. – Fri. 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Sign up at the Counseling Desk in the St. Francis House
Day Center
St. James Church
1191 Mass. Ave, Cambridge
Food pantry: Tues. 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.; Thurs. 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.;
Sat. 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

St. Paul's Aime Church
85 Bishop Allen Drive, Cambridge, 617-661-1110
Food pantry: Wed. 12 p.m. – 2 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Western Ave. Baptist Church
299 Western Ave., Cambridge, 617-661-0433
Food pantry: Every second Wed., 10 a.m.
Zinberg Clinic Pantry at Cambridge Hospital 617-665-1606
For clinic patients with HIV / AIDS only.
Food pantry: Mon. – Fri. 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Fair Foods \$2 a bag;
CAMBRIDGE, St. Paul's Church
29 Mt. Auburn St
Harvard Sq. Red Line
Saturdays 10-11
SOMERVILLE, Cobble Hill Apts
84 Washington St.
Back parking lot
(near Sullivan Sq.)
Every other Wed. 11:30-1
Mt. Pleasant Apts. 70 Perkins St. (off Broadway)
Every other Wed. 1:30 - 2:30
Hearty Meals for All
Somerville Community Baptist Church
31 College Ave. Somerville, MA 02144
Free Community Meals the second Friday of every month
at 6:30pm

Homeless Concerns

The Women's Center
46 Pleasant St., Cambridge, 617-354-8807
Computers, kitchen, space, children's room, and more.
Walk-ins welcome.
Women & children only (no boys over age 12)
Hours: Mon-Fri 10am-8pm, Sat 10am-3pm.

Cambridge Multi-Service Center
19 Brookline St., Cambridge, 617-349-6340
City-run agency with additional community non-profit partners. Works with Cambridge families in shelters, provides shelter referrals and other housing assistance. Employs housing specialists for elderly and disabled.
Office hours: Mon. 8:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Tue., Wed., Thu. 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Fri. 8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. Walk-ins accepted.

Cardinal Medeiros Center
25 Isabella St., Boston, 617-619-6960
Day center for homeless adults (50 years & older); mental health & nursing staff; help with housing searches.
Lunch served at 11:45 a.m.
Office hours: Mon. - Thu. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Fri. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Caspar
240 Albany St., Cambridge, 617-661-0600
Open 24 hrs / day; emergency shelter open 4:30 p.m. -- 8 a.m.; Clients who leave in the morning may not return until 3 p.m.; Clients staying multiple nights must prove recent local residency.

CLASP (*Community Legal Assistance Services Project*)
19 Brookline St., Cambridge, 617-552-0623
Free legal clinic for Cambridge homeless at the Multi-Service Center every Tuesday at 8:30 a.m.
Ecclesia Ministries
67 Newbury Street, Boston., 617-552-0623
Weekly Schedule for the Common Cathedral:
Sunday
- Worship at Brewer's Fountain on Boston Common, 1 pm
- Gospel Reflection at St. Paul's Cathedral, 138 Tremont St., 2:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Monday

- Lunch at Sproat Hall (St. Paul's Cathedral) 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- Eucharist & Healing (St. Paul's Cathedral) 1 p.m.
- Common Fellowship in Sproat Hall (St. Paul's Cathedral) 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Wednesday

- Common Art at the Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury Street, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Friday

- Common Cinema in Sproat Hall (St. Paul's Cathedral) 2:30 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Horizons for Homeless Children
617-445-1480; www.horizonsforhomelesschildren.org
Horizons for Homeless Children is seeking volunteers to interact and play with children living in family, teen parent, and domestic violence shelters in Greater Boston. We offer daytime and evening shifts, so there is likely to be one that fits your schedule. A commitment of 2 hours a week for 6 months is required. The next training session will be Sat., Sept. 27, 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Medical Walk-in Unit at Mass General Hospital
617-726-2707
Provides minor medical care for adults. Patients are seen in order of arrival. MGH accepts most insurances but requires copayments.
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sat., Sun., Holidays 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; closed Thanksgiving & Christmas
Boston Rescue Mission
39 Kingston St., Boston
Safe & Healthy men's overnight shelter program.

Rosie's Place
889 Harrison Ave., Boston, 617-442-9322
Women and children only (no boys over age 11)
Open 7 days a week; provides help with housing, medical care, job training, financial aid and education, legal services, rape crisis counselors, health specialists, and more.
St. Francis House
39 Boylston Street, Boston, 617-542-4211
Meals offered 365 days / yr.; food pantry open weekdays.
Offers a mailroom, open art studio, clothing lottery, computer library, support groups such as AA, showers, telephones, toothbrushes & razors, medical clinic, counseling & mental health services, housing counseling & stabilization services, & a women's center.
For more details on these services and for their specific times visit www.stfranchishouse.org
Starlight Ministries. 617-262-4567
Outreach van with food, clothing, blankets and worship
Hours: Wed. 8 p.m. by Park Street T station on the Boston Common.
Streetlight Outreach
Wednesdays at 8:00 PM
Harvard T-Station (The Pit); Porter Square T-Station
Volunteers work weekly to serve the homeless who live in Harvard and Porter Squares. Volunteer teams give away warm food and beverages, clothing and counsel to those in need. Streetlight volunteers also lead an outdoor worship service for the entire community.

The Women's Center
46 Pleasant St., Cambridge, 617-354-8807
Computers, kitchen and rooms. Walk-ins welcome.
Women & children only (no boys over age 16).
Hours: Mon-Fri 10 a.m.– 8 p.m., Sat 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
On The Rise
341 Broadway, Cambridge, 617-497-7968
Women only. Home-base during the day and advocacy ser-
vices. Open six days / week. First-time visitors, call ahead
or stop by Mon-Sat, 8-2pm.

The Outdoor Church of Cambridge

The Outdoor Church of Cambridge is an outdoor ministry to homeless men and women in Cambridge. Prayer services and pastoral assistance outdoors in all seasons and all weather. Short prayer services in Porter Square, under the mobile sculpture near the T station, at 9:00 AM and on the Cambridge Common, near the tall Civil War monument and directly across from Christ Church Cambridge on Garden Street, at 1:00 PM every Sunday, throughout the year. Sandwiches, pastry, juice and clean white socks available in Harvard Square and Central Square. (978)456-00047, 39 Brown Road, Harvard, Massachusetts 01451
jedmannis@charter.net; www.theoutdoorchurch.net.

Victory Programs, Inc.
www.vpi.org. Short and long-term residential substance use
disorder treatment programs for individuals and families;
affordable housing opportunities for eligible individuals;
HIV / AIDS case management. Sites throughout Boston
Please call for more information. (617) 541-0222 ext. 626

Legal Aid:
Lawyers Clearinghouse, 617-723-0885
Shelter Legal Services (Newton), 617-965-0449

The Homeless Eyecare Network of Boston (HEN-Boston)
is a nonprofit organization dedicated to maintaining a constantly undated network of affordable and free eyecare services for the homeless. If you need an eye exam or glasses, please visit our website, www.hen-boston.org.

Subscribe

to

SCN

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

☐ My check or money order for \$60 made payable to Spare Change News is enclosed.

Mail to: *Spare Change News* 1151 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138



The future is in your hands

Every day, 110 street papers like this one help homeless people worldwide to escape poverty. So far, thanks to millions of readers like you, 200,000 vendors in 40 countries have earned a living and changed their lives.

Learn more and get involved at www.street-papers.org/2010



International
Network of
Street
Papers



SIGN UP SPEAK OUT BE SEEN
HELPING YOU CONNECT TO THE SOCIAL WORLD

@Project5050 says:

So often, elements of development work to silence the minorities in our communities. Be it poverty, oppression, circumstance, or decision, I want to know... It's time to pull the tape off the mouths of those who truly understand struggle in America, and hand them the microphone of social media.

@gregstaffa says:

I believe social media is a good tool for someone who is homeless because in many ways it gives them a voice. I can Twitter about a product that I did not like and often a company rep will write back. Unless you put it on there places like Twitter and Facebook don't care who you are. I've made friends on facebook and Twitter based on my own writings or tweets and months would go by before they realized I was homeless.

WWW.WEAREVISIBLE.COM

TWITTER: @WEAREVISIBLE FACEBOOK: FACEBOOK.COM/WEAREVISIBLE

ALSO FOLLOW:

@homelessgirl1
@lostawareness

@alleycat22469
@beckyblanton

@padschicago
@TCManWalking

**Now You Can Proudly
Display Your Support.**

\$2 OFF

with each **SCN T-shirt** purchase when you mail in your check or money order and this coupon to:

HEP/Spare Change News
1151 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138

\$8.00 is your cost per item with this coupon.
Colors are White and Blue.
Offer expires December 31, 2010.



\$1 OFF

with each **SCN Calendar** purchase when you mail in your check or money order and this coupon to:

HEP/Spare Change News
1151 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138

\$6.00 is your cost per item with this coupon.
Offer expires December 31, 2010.



And When You Share, It Shows You Care.